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Pennsylvania Press Release

PRESS RELEASE

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MARCH MILK PRODUCTION UP 4.2 PERCENT

HARRISBURG --- Milk production in **Pennsylvania** during March 2000 totaled 1,001 million pounds, 4.2 percent above last year's production, according to the Pennsylvania Agricultural Statistics Service (PASS). The number of milk cows in the state during the month averaged 618,000 head, up 1,000 head from February and 4,000 head more than March 1999. Production per cow averaged 1,620 pounds in March, 145 pounds more than February and 55 pounds more than March 1999.

Milk production in the **20 states surveyed** during March 2000 totaled 12.7 billion pounds, up 3.8 percent from production in these same states in March 1999. February revised production, at 11.7 billion pounds, was up 8.2 percent from February 1999. However, adjusting production for the additional day due to the leap year causes February milk production to be up 4.5 percent on a per day basis.

The number of milk cows on farms in the 20 major states averaged 7.77 million head, 57,000 head more than March 1999, and 4,000 head more than February 2000.

Production per cow in the 20 major states averaged 1,634 pounds for March, 49 pounds above March of last year.

The quarterly production of milk for the U.S. was 42.6 billion pounds, 5.1 percent above the January-March period last year. The average number of milk cows in the U.S. during the January-March quarter was 9.19 million head, 58,000 head more than the same period last year.